## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 22, 2001 LB 329

and say, well, this is the best we could do. But I think most of us inside the glass here understand that water quality is important to the state of Nebraska. And just to bring you up to date, we were spending about \$3 million a year of what I would call state money, but it came from the fertilizer tax, for water quality programs in the state of Nebraska. And last year, January 1, 2000, that tax expired and the Legislature did not get anything to take its place. We had \$500,000 of General Fund money to put into it last year, but that was vetoed out and was not overridden. So this program has kind of been slowed down a little bit, and this isn't the total answer, but it is a start. And I suspect we will be back and visit this issue in the But this does provide about \$3 million to the natural resource districts for water quality funding programs. It does require on their part a 60-40 match. Early on in the session, I went to our frugal senator, Senator Wehrbein, and said this would be a lot less painful for the agriculture community if we could have a little General Fund money. And so Senator Wehrbein, I think, agreed to a \$250,000 annual appropriation for clean water programs. You have a handout in front of you; could read it; it makes a one-time transfer. First of all, the Pesticide Fund that we're taxing here and the registration fees are nonspecialty pesticides. The applicator fees for commercial and the private applicators, that money won't be here today. And so we did find the fund in the Agriculture Department, so the fund is going to be kicked off by a \$1 million transfer to the Natural Resources Water Quality Fund from the Pesticide Administrative Cash Fund from the Department of Agriculture. There's...and, like I said earlier, there's appropriation bill of \$250,000 for the first year. And then we have an increase of \$110 for the registration fee nonspecialty pesticides, and there are about 4,056 of those in the state of Nebraska. It does retain the \$90 for the buffer strip in the Noxious Weed Program that we presently have. increases commercial licensing fee to \$90 for a three-year license, and it's an increase for the private applicator fee, and that is a new fee, of \$25.50. You ask, why \$25.50? the compromise; because the one time we wanted \$30, at one time we wanted \$20, and through a series of compromises we got to Why is it not \$25 or \$26? I don't know, it's because \$25.50. this was the compromise. And when you compromise you've got to